CLAIMS

1. A method for prefabricating an information page, comprising:

prefabricating a first page in accordance with a definable prefabrication policy to produce a first prefabricated page;

receiving an information request;

determining if the information request corresponds to the first page;

providing the first prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the first page;

dynamically fabricating a second page if the information request corresponds to the second page.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining if the first prefabricated page is stale;

dynamically fabricating the first page if the first prefabricated page is stale.

3. The method of claim 2 in which a time factor is considered in determining whether the first prefabricated page is stale.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

crawling the first prefabricated page;

determining if additional pages should be prefabricated; and

prefabricating the additional pages.

5. The method of claim 4 in which the first page is a start page.

6. The method of claim 1 in which prefabricating the first page comprises:

querying a database for information;

processing the information; and

packaging the processed information into the first prefabricated page.

7. The method of claim 1 in which a system resource level is considered before scheduling the action of prefabricating the first page.

8. The method of claim 7 in which the system resource level is a resource measure selected from the group consisting of: CPU usage level, memory usage level, and number of pending prefabrication requests.

9. The method of claim 1 in which the definable prefabrication policy applies to a specific user or class of users.

10. The method of claim 1 in which the definable prefabrication policy identifies pages to prefabricate.

11. The method of claim 10 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises a responsibility parameter.

12. The method of claim 10 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises an application identifier.

13. The method of claim 10 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises a scheduling parameter.

14. The method of claim 10 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises a refresh rate parameter.

15. The method of claim 1 in which auto-tuning of the prefabricating step is performed to minimize interference with other system workload.

16. The method of claim 1 in which the definable prefabrication policy is organized as a hierarchy of policies.

17. The method of claim 16 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises a system policy.

18. The method of claim 16 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises an application policy.

19. The method of claim 16 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises a user policy.

20. The method of claim 16 in which the definable prefabrication policy comprises a transient policy.

21. The method of claim 1 in which the first page comprises a browser page.

22. The method of claim 1 in which the first prefabricated page is cached.

23. A system for prefabricating information, comprising:

a prefabricator to manage prefabricating a first page to produce a first prefabricated page;

an interceptor to intercept an information request, the interceptor logically interposed between a user interface and a computer application, the interceptor providing the first prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the first page and dynamically fabricating a second page if the information request corresponds to the second page.

24. The system of claim 23 in which the prefabricator comprises a module to identify pages to prefabricate.

25. The system of claim 23 in which the prefabricator comprises a module to prioritize a list of pages to prefabricate.

26. The system of claim 25 in which the module prioritizes the list of pages based upon a system resource parameter.

27. The system of claim 25 in which the module prioritizes the list of pages based upon a page prefabrication time parameter.

28. The system of claim 25 in which the module prioritizes the list of pages based upon a user access pattern parameter.

29. The system of claim 25 in which the module prioritizes the list of pages based upon a page depth parameter.

30. The system of claim 23 in which the first page corresponds to a page request, wherein the page request is processed as a second information request to the interceptor.

31. The system of claim 30 in which the prefabricator comprises a module to determine a number of page requests to concurrently process into prefabricated pages.

32. The system of claim 31 in which the number of concurrent page requests increase when available system resources increase.

33. The system of claim 23 in which the prefabricator comprises a module to crawl the first prefabricated page for additional pages to prefabricate.

34. The system of claim 23 in which the prefabricator accesses a prefabrication policy to manage prefabricating the first page.

35. The system of claim 23 in which the user interface comprises a browser.

36. The system of claim 23 in which the computer application comprises a database application.

37. The system of claim 23 in which the interceptor is integrated into a web server.

38. The system of claim 23 in which the interceptor is integrated with a cache server.

39. The system of claim 23 in which the prefabricator comprises a module to monitor system resources.

40. The system of claim 23 in which the prefabricator and the interceptor are logically associated with a first network node, wherein the system further comprises:

a second prefabricator and a second interceptor logically associated with a second network node.

41. The system of claim 40 in which the routing component routes information requests among the first and second network nodes.

42. The system of claim 40 in which a load distributor distributes a prefabrication workload among the first and second network nodes.

43. The system of claim 42 in which the prefabrication workload is distributed based upon system resource levels at the first and second network nodes.

44. The system of claim 43 in which a node having relatively lower resource levels is assigned a greater share of the prefabrication workload.

45. The system of claim 43 in which each of the first and second network nodes are assigned work from the prefabrication workload based upon its individual resource levels without regard to resource levels on other nodes.

46. The system of claim 43 in which the first and second network nodes are assigned work from the prefabricated workload in a coordinated manner.

47. The system of claim 40 in which prefabricated pages are stored in a network accessible storage device.

48. The system of claim 23 which is non-intrusively implemented with an existing computer application such that code changes are not performed against the existing computer application.

49. A method for prefabricating information pages, comprising:

prefabricating a first page on a first node to produce a first prefabricated page;

storing the first prefabricated page;

prefabricating a second page on a second node to produce a second prefabricated page;

storing the second prefabricated page;

receiving an information request;

providing the first prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the first page; and

providing the second prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the second page.

50. The method of claim 49 further comprising:

routing the information request to either the first or second node.

51. The method of claim 49 in which the first node accesses the second prefabricated page to satisfy the information request.

52. The method of claim 49 in which the first and second prefabricated pages are stored on a network accessible storage device.

53. The method of claim 52 in which network accessible storage device comprises a NFS-compliant device.

54. The method of claim 49 in which a prefabrication workload is distributed among the first and second nodes.

55. The method of claim 54 in which a node having relatively lower resource levels is assigned a greater share of the prefabrication workload.

56. The method of claim 54 in which each of the first and second nodes are assigned work from the prefabrication workload based upon its individual resource levels without regard to resource levels on other nodes.

57. The method of claim 54 in which the first and second nodes are assigned work from the prefabricated workload in a coordinated manner.

58. A method for prefabricating an information page, comprising:

prefabricating a first page to produce a first prefabricated page;

receiving an information request from a user having a session identifier;

determining if the information request corresponds to the first page;

providing the first prefabricated page with the session identifier if the information request corresponds to the first page;

dynamically fabricating a second page if the information request corresponds to the second page.

59. The method of claim 58 further comprising:

verifying validity of the session identifier.

60. The method of claim 59 further comprising:

distributing a message verifying the validity of the session identifier to one or more network nodes.

61. The method of claim 58 in which the session identifier is provided with the first prefabricated page as a URL parameter.

62. The method of claim 58 in which the session identifier is provided with the first prefabricated page as a cookie value.

63. A prefabrication policy having one or more parameters that define how a page should be prefabricated.

64. The prefabrication policy of claim 63 that is configured to apply to a specific user or class of users.

65. The prefabrication policy of claim 63 that is configured to identify pages to prefabricate.

66. The prefabrication policy of claim 63 that is configured to identify an application for which the page should be prefabricated.

67. The prefabrication policy of claim 63 comprising a scheduling parameter.

68. The prefabrication policy of claim 63 comprising a refresh rate parameter.

69. The prefabrication policy of claim 63 organized as a hierarchy of policy categories.

70. A computer program product that includes a medium usable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process for prefabricating an information page, the process comprising:

prefabricating a first page in accordance with a definable prefabrication policy to produce a first prefabricated page;

receiving an information request;

determining if the information request corresponds to the first page;

providing the first prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the first page;

dynamically fabricating a second page if the information request corresponds to the second page.

71. A computer program product that includes a medium usable by a processor, the medium having stored thereon a sequence of instructions which, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to execute a process for prefabricating an information page, the process comprising:

prefabricating a first page on a first node to produce a first prefabricated page;

storing the first prefabricated page;

prefabricating a second page on a second node to produce a second prefabricated page;

storing the second prefabricated page;

receiving an information request;

providing the first prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the first page; and

providing the second prefabricated page if the information request corresponds to the second page.